

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 2479

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, SHUM, CI
SUBJ: LETELIER/MOFFITT CASE: ASSASSINATION INVESTIGATION

REF: SANTIAGO 2475

1. OUR SECOND MEETING TOOK PLACE AT 5:00 P.M. IN THE
ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER'S OFFICE. IN ADDITION TO HIM,
CNI DIRECTOR GENERAL MENA AND INTERIOR UNDER SECRETARY
MONTERO WERE PRESENT ON THE CHILEAN SIDE. DCM BOYATT
ACCOMPANIED ME.

2. MENA, WHO ACTED AS SPOKESMAN FOR THE GROUP, BEGAN
BY REVIEWING THE BIDDING. THE LETTERS ROGATORY PROCESS
HAD BEEN COMPLETED THANKS TO THE FULL COOPERATION OF
THE GOC: U.S. ATTORNEY PROPPER HAD PRESENTED A WARRANT
FOR THE ARREST OF MICHAEL TOWNLEY AND ASKED THAT HE BE
EXPELLED INTO THE CUSTODY OF U.S. AUTHORITIES; AND BOTH
PROPPER AND I HAD MADE CLEAR THE JURIDICAL AND POLITICAL
IMPORTANCE OF THE GOC'S EXPEDITIOUS COOPERATION IN HAND-
ING OVER TOWNLEY. THERE WERE THREE COURSES OPEN TO
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THE GOC: EXTRADITION, WHICH WAS NOT VIABLE SINCE TOWNLEY
HAD NOT BEEN EITHER INDICTED OR CONVICTED; EXPULSION,
WHICH WAS A FORMAL PROCEDURE REQUIRING AT LEAST TWENTY
DAYS; AND SIMPLY HANDING TOWNLEY OVER TO U.S. AUTHORITIES
AT THE AIRPORT AS A FUGITIVE FROM U.S. JUSTICEM

3. TO MY COMMENT THAT OBVIOUSLY THIS LAST OPTION WAS

WHAT THE USG DESIRED, MENA'S REPLY CAN BE SUMMARIZED BY SAYING THAT THE GOC REQUESTED A QUID PRO QUO COMPOSED OF THREE ELEMENTS:

- A GUARANTEE THAT THE USG WOULD PROVIDE GOC WITH ALL INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY TOWNLEY;

- A GUARANTEE THAT GOC OFFICIALS WOULD HAVE ACCESS TO TOWNLEY WHILE HE WAS INCARCERATED IN THE U.S. FOR PURPOSES OF QUESTIONING HIM REGARDING ONGOING LEGAL PROCEEDINGS IN CHILE; AND

- A RETURN TO WASHINGTON OF MONTERO WHICH WOULD INCLUDE A CALL ON DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER, AND A JOINT STATEMENT ACKNOWLEDGING CHILE'S FULL COOPERATION IN THIS CASE.

4. AT THIS POINT MONTERO INTERVENED TO SAY THAT THE GOC'S REQUESTS WERE EMINENTLY REASONABLE BECAUSE;

- THE FIRST WAS BASED ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT TO GAIN REVENGE FOR BEING TURNED OVER TO USG AUTHORITIES TOWNLEY WOULD MAKE ALL SORTS OF ALLEGATIONS REGARDING CHILEAN OFFICIALS AND THAT THE GOC HAD THE RIGHT TO KNOW WHAT WAS COMING IN THIS REGARD;

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- THE GOC WAS CONTINUING ITS OWN LEGAL PROCESSES AGAINST VARIOUS GOC OFFICIALS (READ CONTRERAS) AND THEY WANTED TO CONTINUE TO OBTAIN EVIDENCE IN THIS REGARD; AND

- MONTERO WISHED TO HAVE PUBLIC RECOGNITION THAT THE GOC HAD COOPERATED FULLY AS HE SAID IT WOULD DURING HIS FIRST MISSION TO THE U.S. HE SAID THIS WAS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT SINCE MANY IN THE U.S. PRESS (AND BY IMPLICATION IN THE U.S. GOVERNMENT) WOULD REFUSE TO RECOGNIZE CHILE'S COOPERATION.

5. I RESPONDED THAT I WAS GRATEFUL FOR THEIR PROFFERED COOPERATION BUT THAT THE UNDERTAKINGS DESIRED BY THE GOC COULD ONLY BE PROVIDED BY ASSISTANT U.S. ATTORNEY PROPPER AND THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. I SUGGESTED THAT PROPPER AND THE FBI AGENTS MEET IMMEDIATELY WITH MENA AND MONTERO TO WORK OUT THE DETAILS. THEY ARE NOW MEETING. LANDAU

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